

Message Text

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72

ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 PC-15 AGR-20 SCI-06

EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /157 W

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R 011520Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6464

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS NIAMEY 3047

AFDROUGHT

GENEVA FOR CARTWRIGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON EAID NG

SUBJECT: FOOD STATUS AND HARVEST IN NIGER

1. NIGER INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR DROUGHT RELIEF HEADED BY
MIN DEFENSE KAZIENDE GAVE COLLECTIVE PRESS CONFERENCE SEPT 29
ON CURRENT FOOD STATUS AND PROSPECTS FOR HARVEST.

2. COMMITTEE THANKED EXTERNAL DONORS AND ENUMERATED CONTRIBUTIONS
FROM EACH. US WAS AT TOP OF LIST. OF 113,109 TONS FOOD PROMISED
FROM ABROAD, ONLY 67,709 TONS THUS FAR DELIVERED.

3. CONFEREES STATED PREMATURE DIMINUTION RAINS IN HEART OF GRAIN
BELT DURING SEPTEMBER PLUS SEVERE INFESTATION OF CATERPILLARS IN
SOUTHWESTERN NIGER WILL REDUCE SORGHUM AND MILLET HARVEST TO
ESTIMATED ONE MILLION TONS. SUPPLEMENTARY CROPS (RICE, BEANS,
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MANIOC) WILL AMOUNT TO 40,000 TONS. AFTER SETTING ASIDE SEED

AND ALLOWING FOR STORAGE LOSSES, NET FOOD DEFICIT ESTIMATED AT 285,000 TONS. THERE WAS WARNING THAT DESPITE IMPROVED HARVEST THIS YEAR, NEXT TWELVE MONTHS COULD BE MORE DIFFICULT THAN LAST YEAR BECAUSE ALL GRAIN RESERVES EXHAUSTED. GON WANTS DONORS BUILD UP RESERVE STOCKS IN COUNTRY BOTH AS SECURITY MEASURE AS WELL AS DISCOURAGE SPECULATION. GON PLANS EMBARK ON FOOD FOR WORK SCHEME CONCENTRATING ON SMALL PROJECTS WHICH WILL HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON NEXT YEAR'S HARVEST.

4. REFERENCE WAS MADE TO QUOTE SPECTACULAR RESULTS OF THIS YEAR'S ARTIFICIAL RAINMAKING OPERATION UNQUOTE AND COMMITTEE SPOKE HOPEFULLY OF NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAM.

5. EMBASSY COMMENTS ON ABOVE WILL FOLLOW AFTER COMPLETION FAO/
DONOR MISSION NIGER OCT 6.BUCHE

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